

Amendments to the Specification:

At page 1, line 1, please replace the current paragraph following:

The present application is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 09/170,793, filed on October 13, 1998, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application No. 09/023,492, filed on February 13, 1998, the entire disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Please replace the second paragraph on page 12 with the following:

Once the shaft 154 and conduit 142 have been slid over the distal end 126 of the guide wire 120 and secured thereto by the clamp 158, the proximal end 138 of the guide wire 120 is pulled in the direction of the arrow in Fig. 10. This moves the guide wire 120, shaft 154 and conduit 142 into the aorta 18, past the aortic valve 24 and into the left ventricle 12. As the ~~distal~~ proximal end ~~[[126]]~~ 138 of the guide wire 120 is pulled further, the conduit 142 enters the heart wall 34, as shown in Figs. 10-10A. The position of the conduit 142 relative to the heart wall 34 and the LAD 30 can be controlled by manipulating the distal end 126 of the guide wire 120 or the proximal end of the shaft 154 (or end 138 of the wire). The position of the conduit 142 within the heart wall 34 thus can be selectively adjusted by pulling or pushing an end of the guide wire 120 (or shaft 154) with respect to the heart wall.

Please replace the final, partial paragraph on page 16 (running into page 17) with the following:

Next, the syringe 192 is actuated to take down the balloon 178 for removal from the interior of the conduit 172. The deflated balloon can be pulled into the ventricle 12 and removed through the opening in the heart wall (adjacent the apex in the Figures). This may be accomplished by disengaging the clamp 184 from the guide wire 120A to allow the shaft 174 and balloon 178 to be slid off of the wire ~~in the direction of the arrow in Fig. 17~~ (not shown). The guide wire 120A may then be removed by pulling either end

through the chamber. Alternatively, the shaft 174, balloon 178 and guide wire 120A may be removed as a unit by pulling the elements (after the balloon has been deflated) through the conduit 172 and then into and out of the left ventricle 12.

Please replace the first paragraph on page 19 with the following:

After this step, the sheath 212 is removed from the conduit 202, for example, by pulling ~~[[and]]~~ an end 218 of the sheath through the opening in the wall 38 of the LAD 30, as shown in Fig. 18C. The sheath is preferably made of a strong yet soft, collapsible material that allows the sheath to be folded and removed through the small opening in the wall of the artery. The materials described above with respect to the sheath 180 of the previous embodiment may be used. The expanded portion 216 of the conduit 202 aids in retaining the conduit in the heart wall while the sheath is removed. The resulting configuration is shown in Fig. 18D.